PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

LECTURE CXCIII.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S APPEAL.

The Joint War Organization of Red Cross and St. John strives to fulfil one of the noblest of human desires, the relief of suffering.

It provides comforts for the sick and wounded, and much needed amenities for Prisioners of War in enemy hands.

I commend this appeal to the people of Madras, with complete confidence that they will once again demonstrate their unsurpassed generosity and practical sympathy for this excellent cause.

ARTHUR HOPE,
Governor of Madras.

MISERICORDIA

(*From the Madras War Review*).

MISERICORDIA is a beautiful Latin word.

THE very shape of it is enough to switch one's mind from Anger, Hate and Revenge, to Pity, Mercy and Succour.

IT won't spoil morale if we in Madras dwell for a moment each day for a couple of weeks on these more tender and pleasing traits of human make-up.

THE papers tell us that a certain country sadly but proudly expects to have half a million casualties soon and suddenly.

HALF A MILLION more are thus to be added from one country alone to the figures of four years of bloody war on the Seven Seas, three Continents, a multitude of islands and the corridors of the sky.

NEVER mind what county this is. There are several others with the same grim expectations. And a large proportion of those casualties will be deaths.

BUT there are hundreds of thousands of not-killed, and more still who will again escape immediate death. Again, never mind whose nationals they may be. They are human beings—the young and the strong and the brave—and they are, or will be Sick, Wounded or Prisoners of War.

THEY NOW need, and **WILL** need, *all* the help that the Red Cross and St. John, throughout the world, can possibly give them.

THIS great organization is doing its noble best, but it cannot yet do enough. It wants help—badly. It wants for this year alone, and for India alone, three crores of rupees to carry out the work it can see ahead, to say nothing of what it cannot foresee.

Madras will—MUST—help it
AD MISERICORDIAM!

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

3—4—44 (Monday).	**Allies bomb *BUDAPEST* (capital of Hungary) in daylight.**
	Allies occupy 11 more Atolls in the *MARSHALLS.*
4—4—44 (Tuesday).	**Russians capture *HOTKIN.***
	Allies bomb *BUCHAREST* (capital of *RUMANIA*) in daylight.
5—4—44 (Wednesday).	**Allies bomb *PLOESTI* oil-fields (Rumania) in daylight.**
	Russians capture *RASYELNAYA*, near *ODESSA.*
7—4—44 (Friday).	**Gen. Giraud resigns his post as C. in C. of the French Forces.**
8—4—44 (Saturday).	**Russians reach the *CZECH-RUMANIAN* Frontier.**
9—4—44 (Sunday).	**Japs capture *TAMU* on the border of *MANIPUR* State.**

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

Russia.—The First Ukrainian Army has reached the Czechoslovak—Rumanian frontier at the foot of the Carpathian hills on a front of two hundred kilometres. In honour of the achievement Marshal Zhukov's forces have been named 'Carpathia.' They have also taken Sereth near the border of BUKOVINA and RUMANIA. By reaching the Czechoslovakian frontier the Red Army has reached territory which is at present occupied by HUNGARY.

Troops of the Second Ukrainian Front have forced the Pruth, north of JASSY, on a front of 170 Kilometres, and have occupied the towns of BOTOSANI and DOROHOI.

Russian armies are now within 7 miles north of ODESSA, and are forcing their way between two estuaries of the Kugainik river. The siege of ODESSA has begun. The route for escape by land for the German armies is being closed at AKKERMAN. Five or six German divisions have been cut off in a new pocket near RAZDELNAYA. The battle of the SKALA pocket is also in full swing.

[Since writing these notes news has come of the fall of ODESSA. With the capture of NIKOLAYEV and ODESSA, SEBASTOPOL is threatened and the Battle of the CRIMEA, suspended since the capture of PEREKOP, has been resumed.

Russians advancing into RUMANIA have taken more than 200 inhabited localities, and the civilians in these places offered no opposition. The Germans have taken over the PLOESTI oil-fields and moved their head-quarters to BUCHAREST.

The Battle for CZECHOSLOVAKIA has opened along the CARPATHIAN crests—Editor.]

Italy.—The German attempt to recapture MOUNT MARRONE above CASSINO has failed. The enemy's attack down the Gargliano Valley has become intense. CASSINO remains fairly quiet.

The Allies have established a new strong point on the ANZIO bridgehead near PADIGLIONE.

Air War.—BUDAPEST and BUCHAREST have been attacked for the the first time. On April 5, the Ploesti oil-fields were raided. BERLIN, MUNICH and BRUNSWICK were the targets of the week in GERMANY.

The Pacific.—11 more Atolls have been taken in the MARSHALLS, as well as RAMBUTO in the ADMIRALTY group.

25 enemy ships and 160 planes were destroyed in an attack on the CAROLINE ISLANDS.

The Japs have evacuated GASMATA and CAPE HOPKINS in NEW BRITAIN. The major part of this island is now in Allied hands.

The Indo-Burma frontier.—KOHIMA is threatened. The KOHIMA-IMPHAL road remains cut. IMPHAL is virtually in a state of siege. The 17th Indian Division has been withdrawn into IMPHAL for its defence.

Chinese troops have captured MARANGAH TAWNG and MIHLOIGAR TAWNG in the upper MOGAUNG Valley.

The Japs have captured TAMU on the border of MANIPUR State.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

2—4—44. (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—(116 enemy planes shot down; 33 Allied planes missing).

Ball-bearing works at STAYER (Austria).

Railroads at BROD (Yugoslavia), MOSTAR and BIHAC.

ITALY.

Supply dumps and troop concentrations in the battle area.

RUSSIA.

(40 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

DUBLON (Truk).

3 Jap positions in the MARSHALLS.

Airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain)

Barges off NEW GUINEA.

BURMA.

Enemy positions and rivercraft in the ARAKAN, KALADAN and MAYU areas.

Positions, tanks, motor transport and other targets in the CHIN Hills, CHINDWIN Valley and N. W. BURMA.

Ammunition dumps at INDAW.

The airfield at ANISAKAN.

3—4—44 (Monday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—

Railyards in BUDAPEST (capital of Hungary), KNIN (Yugoslavia), BROD and DRNIS.

ITALY.

(26 enemy planes shot down; 13 Allied planes missing).

A bridge north of ORVIETO.

Supply dumps and troop concentrations in the battle areas.

RUSSIA.

(79 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Airfield at RABAUL.

Targets in the WEWAK area (N. Guinea).

The Penfoi airfield in TIMOR.

BURMA.

The railway station at YEU.

Bridges at TANGON and PAUKKAN.

Oil and power installations in S. BURMA including that at YENANGYAUNG.

Buildings at CHAUK.

Enemy positions and communications in the ARAKAN, MAYU and KALADAN areas.

Objectives in the BUTHIDAUNG area and in the CHIN Hills.

PEGU and MOULMEIN.

4—4—44 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—(49 enemy planes shot down).

BUCHAREST (capital of Rumania).

Railyards at KNIN, BROD and DRNIS (Yugoslavia).

NIGHT:—

COLOGNE and other objectives in the RUHR (Germay).

ITALY.

Enemy positions and communications in the battle areas.

RUSSIA.

(42 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions in the MARSHALLS.

Jap targets at RABAUL (N. Britain) and WEWAK (N. Guinea).

KOEPANG and LAUTEM (Timor).

BURMA.

The airfield at AUNGBAN (24 Jap planes destroyed).

A Jap H. Q. at NAGORN SAWARN.

Railway yards and jetties at MOULMEIN.

Enemy positions in the ARAKAN, MAYU and KALADAN areas.

Tanks and motor transport in the CHIN Hills, NAGA Hills and N. W. BURMA.

5—4—44. (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—

The oil-fields at PLOESTI (Rumania).

The railway centre at NISH (Yugoslavia).

German airfields in BERLIN and MUNICH area.

Targets in Northern FRANCE including those at PAS DE CALAIS area.

Night:—

The aircraft repair plant at TOULON (France).

ITALY.

Enemy positions and supply lines in the battle areas in ITALY.

RUSSIA.

(44 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Storage areas in WEWAK Island.

Airfields on PONAPE Islands.

4 Jap positions in the MARSHALLS.

Jap base at HOLLANDIA (N. Guinea).

BURMA.

Targets in the KALADAN, ARAKAN and MAYU areas.

Enemy positions, Villages and tanks in the CHIN Hills, CHINDWIN and N. W. BURMA.

6—4—44. (Thursday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—

Targets in the PAS DE CALAIS area and Northern FRANCE.

NIGHT:—

HAMBURG.

Objectives in the RUHR and the RHINELAND.

ITALY and YUGOSLAVIA.

The power station at TERNI.

The airfield at PERUGGIA.

Rail bridge near ORVIETO.

A factory at POPOLI.

Airfields at ZAGREB and BANJALUKA.

Communications round ROME.

RUSSIA.

(45 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap bases in the CAROLINES (25 Jap ships and 160 planes destroyed).

An oil tanker off SEMAOE Island.

A cargo ship off WEWAK (N. Guinea).

Barges off the ALEXISHAFEN area.

Airfields at TRUK.

Jap positions at PONAPE (Carolines).

BURMA.

Enemy troops and gun positions in Northern BURMA.

Oil dumps in the MANYWET district.

A radio station S. W. of MOGAUNG.

Targets at BASSEIN and HENZADA.

Objectives in the ARAKAN, KALADAN, CHIN Hills, CHINDWIN Valley and N. W. BURMA.

7—4—44 (Friday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

Night:—
Laying mines in enemy waters.

ITALY.

Enemy positions, storages, dumps and tanks in the battle area.

RUSSIA.

(92 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap bases in the CAROLINES and MARSHALLS.

BURMA.

Rivercraft and enemy positions in the ARAKAN, MAYU and KALADAN areas.
Objectives in the CHINDWIN Valley, CHIN Hills, NAGA Hills and N. W. BURMA.
Ammunition dumps W. of MOGAUNG.
Rail targets in South and Central BURMA.
Gun positions in the MALU area.

8—4—44 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—(148 enemy planes destroyed; 58 Allied planes missing).
Aircraft industries at BRUNSWICK.
Airfields north of the RUHR and in the FRANKFURT area.

NIGHT:—
ESSEN (Germany).
Objectives in Western GERMANY.
Laying mines in enemy waters.

ITALY.

The Airfield at RIETI.
A bridge at BASTIA.
A factory at POPOLI.
Dumps and motor transport at NIKSIC.
Enemy positions and communications in the battle areas.

RUSSIA.

(71 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap bases in BISMARCK Archipelago.

BURMA.

The marshalling yards at MANDALAY.
Victoria Lake dumps at RANGOON.
Communications in SIAM (including the railway station at CHIENGMAI) and in South BURMA.
A petrol dump at INDAW.
Objectives in the ARAKAN, MAYU, KALADAN, CHIN Hills and CHINDWIN Valley and MANIPUR areas.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

3—4—44 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information.

4—4—44 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

5—4—44 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

6—4—44 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

Allied airfield at NANNING (9 Jap planes shot down).

7—4—44. (Friday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

8—4—44. (Saturday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

9—4—44. (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information.

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE RUSSIAN THEATRE. Between March 4 and March 31, forces of the First Ukrainian Front under Marshal Zhukov have liberated 41,940 square kilometres of Soviet territory, 3 regional Centres, namely, those of VINNISTA, KAMENETS-PODOLSKI and CZERNOWITZ, 57 towns, 11 railway junctions, 4,448 smaller townships and villages, cut the German armies in two, liquidated 15 German divisions in the SKALA area, and entering Rumanian territory have cut the JASSY-DOROHOI railway and captured 50 places—no mean achievement for a period of less than a month. They are now driving towards JASSY and the oil-fields of PLOESTI. The whirligig of time has brought its revenge. Nearly two years ago German armies were advancing into RUSSIA for Caucasian oil, and now Russian armies are advancing into Axis EUROPE for Rumanian oil.

The Russian offensives in other sectors are equally impressive :—

1. The Third Ukrainian Army is battling its way to ODESSA.

2. Russian cavalry are closing round 180,000 Germans in the SKALA pocket for a repetition of STALINGRAD.

3. Marshal Zhukov is also moving towards the Great German base of LWOW in the heart of POLAND and inside BUKOVINA.

4. BUDAPEST and BUCHAREST have been bombed for the first time.

5. The capture of NIKOLAYEV is another mortal blow. NIKOLAYEV is the Portsmouth of the Russian fleet on the Black Sea, ranking even above SEBASTOPOL. With the retreat of the German armies southwards the Black Sea has become more important than ever. The 17th German army, including several Rumanian divisions, has been cut off in the CRIMEA and can escape only by sea. In the Black Sea the Russians have one battleship, 3 cruisers, 12 destroyers and a large number of submarines, against which the Germans can bring to bear only 2 or 3 Rumanian destroyers and some torpedo boats.

From NIKOLAYEV the Russians are now in a position to carry out amphibious operations against the Danubian valley. From NIKOLAYEV, CONSTANZA, the chief port of RUMANIA and VARNA on the Bulgarian coast can be attacked.

The Russians have confounded their enemies by maintaining their offensives all through the winter. There is now no question also of their ability to overrun BESSARABIA or drive the enemy from ODESSA. The CARPATHIANS are formidable barriers, no doubt, but they can be outflanked in the north and north-east along the open uplands of the UKRAINE and south along the flats of the Danubian basin. There are also numerous passable passes in these mountains.

[Since writing these notes news has come of the fall of ODESSA. With the capture of NIKOLAYEV and ODESSA, SEBASTOPOL is threatened and the Battle of the CRIMEA, suspended since the capture of PEREKOP has been resumed.

Russians advancing into RUMANIA have taken more than 200 inhabited localities, and curiously enough the civilians in these places offered no opposition. The Germans have taken over the PLOESTI oil-fields and moved their head-quarters to BUCHAREST.

The Battle for CZECHOSLOVAKIA has opened along the CARPATHIAN crests—Editor.]

GERMAN PROSPECTS are not roseate either in the UKRAINE or in the BALKANS. Though the German controlled *Azad Hind* observes naively, 'we concede that Russians have now advanced a little', the German Home radio is more truthful. Recently it declared, 'He who beats on the walls of BESSARABIA beats on the visible and invisible walls of EUROPE'. It has also revealed that thousands of German settlers in the UKRAINE are 'voluntarily' returning to work in GERMANY. This announcement, of course, is the obituary of all German hopes in the UKRAINE—the area they coveted most. They saw in the UKRAINE an inexhaustible storehouse of raw materials and food stuffs, 'decisive', as they said, 'for the prosecution of the rest of the war.' Here they had started the Siemens Ukraine Ltd., a technological institute for chemical industries, and a Hermann Goering Ukraine Steel Co. 'Of what use' bellowed Goering in 1942, 'is the Allied blockade when we possess the entire, immense, fertile fields of the UKRAINE. It makes me laugh when they talk of blockade?'

Now the tables have been turned on them. Here is a picture from the MOSCOW Correspondent of the *Daily Express* :—

'Near EVREUX (FRANCE) in June 1940 I saw French troops break up before German tanks. It was panic then, although we could not use that ugly word. Soldiers were

leaving the front, throwing away arms and taking off uniforms, and trying to pass as civilians. The same thing is happening on the Ukrainian front to-day.

'Military policemen, gendarmes and supply corps men, who for years have been growing fat on the rich food of the UKRAINE, are abandoning the loot and running like cattle to save their hides. Carts filled with eider-downs, furniture and bottles of VODKA are being found abandoned on the roads. Their owners, seeing the roads useless, have made off into the forests. Some Germans have tried to get on pack-horses, two or three on each animal. German infantry too are in panic flight in places.

'In some units, officers have lost control over their men. With arms thrown away and ammunition discarded or exhausted, a number of Germans have ceased to be soldiers. German officers and soldiers come into Russian villages at night and take clothing from peasants, and then try to get through the Russian lines disguised. Into one village a whole German company came and dressed themselves in this fashion.'

Such is the German debacle in the UKRAINE. The rout is getting worse and worse. Marshal Zhukov's men organised into 'jock columns' have got behind the retreating Germans and cut off their retreat.

In despair, Hitler has taken over RUMANIA and HUNGARY. He may seize BULGARIA also. Strangely enough Hitler no longer invades his enemies. He invades his own friends, like the proverbial cormorant preying on its nearest and dearest. But these new occupations are not going to save him any more than the old. These seizures have been forced on him by the exigencies of defeat and in fear, not won by the power of his armies in the lust of conquest. He originally based the S. E. defences of the Reich on the political authority of his satellites in the BALKANS, but these having broken down he has now substituted his own military authority. This bodes no good. Hitler's military power is a wasting asset. German divisions posted in HUNGARY and RUMANIA cannot be used for his defence either on the Polish, or the Baltic, or the Black Sea, or the Italian front or—on the Western front which will be opened.

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M. MOLOTOV'S BROADCAST. M. Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Commissar has broadcast a warning to GERMANY's satellites. Though addressed primarily to RUMANIA it is meant for BULGARIA, HUNGARY and all EUROPE alike. Molotov is discreetly silent about FINLAND, as she is still in the middle of delicate discussions which may yet lead to a fruitful decision. Molotov's statement is also a reply to Hitlerian propaganda that EUROPE will perish unless RUSSIA is defeated. He points out that it is certain now that GERMANY will be routed, but he takes care to add that while this is a matter of military necessity there will be no interference either with the integrity or the social order of RUMANIA or for the matter of that of any other State. The present march on RUMANIA should not be misunderstood as aiming at conquest. It is only to restore the Russo—Rumanian frontier according to the Treaty of 1940, which the Rumanians violated by their attack in 1941. The declaration of Russian policy is timely, as it comes when RUMANIA must make her fateful choice either to live or to perish. The United Nations are satisfied with Molotov's statement, as it is free from all taint of domination and particularly, as it follows the principles of the Atlantic Charter. It has had the approval of Mr. Cordell Hull, the U. S. Secretary of State and of Mr. Churchill.

If the Axis satellites have any wisdom left they should beware and made friends with RUSSIA before it is too late. Russian clemency is now that of a humane victor but it may not continue. The days of Nazi domination are numbered. In a reconstructed EUROPE it is RUSSIA's influence that is going to prevail. Even independent SWITZERLAND, taking note of the times, is re-establishing diplomatic relations with RUSSIA.

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GERMAN BLUFF AND FEAR. In reply to M. Molotov's broadcast Von Ribbentrop, the German Foreign Minister has announced, 'we have not abandoned BERLIN in the face of the heaviest Anglo-American raids. In the same way we shall defend RUMANIA. Molotov wants to finish off the campaign with minimum future losses. Hence the Soviet attempt to bluff FINLAND out of the war, with seemingly moderate demands.'

But even Goebbels, his confiderate is not half so confident. In a broadcast on April 5, he lamented, 'the test trial through which our nation passes to-day is at least as grave as the one to which it was exposed in 1918. To-day, however, the German people know that if they fail in this war extinction threatens them.'

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Following the announcement that the Red Army has reached the Czechoslovak frontier, Dr. Benes the President of CZECHOSLOVAKIA has sent his greetings to Marshal Stalin, guaranteeing an enduring friendship. CZECHOSLOVAKIA's Defence Minister has broadcast :—

'In the near future, the whole of Czechoslovak Republic will be freed from the Germans and Hungarians. To help pave the way for the Allied armies, all Czechoslovak people must use all means against the enemy and his organisation, including not only passive resistance and intensified sabotage, but also direct action. The Czechoslovak Government greets with 'gratitude and joy the announcement that the Red Army has reached the Czechoslovakian frontier. CZECHOSLOVAKIA, which was the first victim of German-Hungarian aggression, will be the first European State to which freedom is brought by the Allied armies.

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INSIDE GERMANY, there has been a decrease of morale, as shown by the marked increase in the number of death sentences. The Himmler terror is intensifying. Execution is the penalty for everything, from subversive propaganda and listening to enemy broadcasts, down to petty thefts and black-market offences. Sex makes no difference; nor even a war record. A charwoman, it is reported, has been executed for stealing from air-raid shelters, and a discharged soldier for stealing a pair of shoes and some cigarettes. No wonder the Germans are docile, but what a revelation of the methods by which Himmler bolsters up German morale!

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SUPREMACY AND SUPERIORITY. The air-war is continuing over Hitler's EUROPE, but with higher aims than before. The Allies are no longer content with the air superiority they have established but are vigorously battling for supremacy. As Air-Marshal Sir Richard Peck, Assistant Chief of Air Staff has pointed out the two are different. Supremacy in the air won AFRICA; it is now maintained in ITALY and over the PAS DE CALAIS area, with the result that the Allied casualties in these zones

have fallen to 1%. Over GERMANY itself, where air superiority exists, supremacy has not yet been established, so that the casualty rates are still high. The Axis casualties too are terrific. For instance, it is said that after every major raid, a million tons of rubble have to be cleared away on an average. Within a period of between 3 and 6 months, HAMBURG has lost 400,000,000 man hours to war production. The Air-war is now so continuous that GERMANY has not a single minute of 'all clear' interval. The R. A. F. Bomber Command alone dropped over 48,000 tons of bombs on GERMANY during the first three months of the year.

All this makes us recall Mr. Churchill's significant words in his Broadcast of March 25 ; He said :—

'The tables are turned. Those who sought to destroy their enemies by the most fearful form of warfare are themselves reeling and writhing under the prodigious blows of British and American air-power.'

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U. S. A. A. F. Another important statement on the Air-war was that which Major Genl. Doolittle, hero of the TOKYO raid, made on March 29. He stated.

1. That 2,100 German aircraft had been destroyed in the preceding 8 weeks by a force of 170,000 U. S. air-men from BRITAIN.
2. That, since February 1, a total of more than 37,000 tons of bombs had been dropped by the U. S. A. A. F. from bases in BRITAIN, of which 26,000 tons fell on targets in GERMANY, and 11,000 tons on targets in occupied countries.
3. That, since February 20, among the targets hit, 16 were major aircraft and component factories. These have been either destroyed or severely damaged, and production in them has either entirely ceased or has been seriously curtailed.

Mr. Churchill has also drawn attention to this increasing part now played by the U. S. A. A. F. when he, in admiration, observed in the same broadcast :—

'Our American Allies have now definitely overtaken us in the mighty force they have established here. This air power is not static—it has grown and will continue to grow, until every Nazi and every Japanese lays down his arms'.

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THE U-BOAT WAR is not yet over, though we recall Mr. Churchill's words in the self-same broadcast, 'We in BRITAIN must celebrate with joy and thankfulness our deliverance from the mortal U-boat peril—the highest among the dangers we have to overcome'. Col. Frank Knox, the U. S. Secretary of the Navy, has warned us that a U-boat mass attack against N. Atlantic shipping must 'soon' be expected, and that German submarine production is proceeding at a high rate.

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IN THE MANIPUR AREA, IMPHAL is in effect in a state of siege, as the IMPHAL-KOHIMA road continues to remain cut. We are hitting back vigorously. The 17th Indian Division has been withdrawn into IMPHAL for its defence.

We make no attempt to belittle the threat that is developing on INDIA's north-eastern frontier, but we also wish to point out that the undue importance that is now given to this episode in certain quarters, as if MANIPUR were a major front or as if a major issue were being decided here, has absolutely no justification. If we magnified these small reverses, we shall be playing into the hands of the Japanese, whose radios proclaim 'smashing' and annihilating attacks, in 'a major offensive', in 'an invasion of INDIA, and a march on DELHI. The present move on IMPHAL can only have a nuisance value. As an American paper has put it, it is 'an one-way ticket into a death trap for 20,000 Japanese'. The Japanese may be strong but we are stronger.

Nor should we, in a moment of depression, forget our own achievements on this, though subsidiary, front. In the HUKAWNG valley the Americans and the Chinese have already advanced a hundred miles, covering the construction of the Ledo Road to CHINA, and taken 1,800 square miles of Burmese territory. They have also captured JAMBU BUM on the pass separating the HUKAWNG valley from the MOGAUNG valley, developing a threat thereby to the N. Burmese towns of KAMAING, MOGAUNG and the important rail and river head of MYITKYINA. Lastly, the capture of SUMPRA BUM, another key position in the north, and the establishment of air-borne troops in the rear of the enemy, have endangered the enemy's forward move.

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THE INDIAN AIR FORCE, celebrated its 11th birthday on April 3. We predict for this youngest branch of INDIA's armed forces a great future. Within a few years it has already established a tradition of service and made a name. It is making history on the Burmese front. The I. A. F. of to-day is far different from the infant of 1939. To-day it is equipped with some of the finest and most modern machines, and is manned by Indian pilots second to none. INDIA is now spanned by a net work of airfields, which are going to play a great part in developing post-war civil air-transport also. Pilots, engineers, and ground-staff are receiving a splendid training, not only in INDIA but in BRITAIN and in far away CANADA. The Indian Universities, too, have opened aeronantical courses of study. INDIA is becoming air-minded, and air-strong.

"BACK TO THE PRUTH"

(*From the Times*).

Forces of the Russian Second Ukrainian Front, under the command of Marshal Koniev, have swept like a cascade across Bessarabia towards Pruth. Here for the first time the Red Army stands where it stood when attacked by Germany and her Rumanian satellite in 1941.

The Russians have maintained their offensive throughout this unusually mild winter, in a manner which has confounded all prophets. It will be a long time yet before they can hope for dry soil, but it is not probable that conditions which they will have to face in the near future will be any worse than those which they overcame when an early thaw played havoc with roads, and reduced the open country of the Ukraine to a spongy condition There can be little question of their ability now to overflow the whole of Bessarabia, thus cutting off the German forces on the Odessa Front or driving them towards the sea. It is possible, however, that they will prefer a thrust straight across the Pruth, thus continuing to hammer in the enormous wedge they have driven in the enemy's array—wedge in the

true sense of a word lately overworked—since it splits and disrupts in addition to piercing. Is there any reason to suppose that the Pruth will block the armies which the greater Dniester failed to hold? The only factor favouring German defence is further extension of Russian communications.

A GREAT OBSTACLE

Against this may be set the further collapse of German resistance, increased disorganisation and the growing losses in transport material. It is unlikely that the Germans themselves hope for more than the briefest pause on the left bank of the river.

The Pruth is navigable only by barges and other small vessels, and is not a great river or a major military obstacle in the same sense as the Dniester or the Dnieper. This applies also to the parallel river Soreth, though that is a more swift-flowing stream. The military significance of both rivers is that in their lower reaches they traverse the Moldavian plain towards the Danube, and provide natural lines of defence which can be linked with the much more formidable barrier of the Carpathians. Here, indeed, is a great obstacle, though passes are fairly numerous and accessible. Yet the vast horseshoe formed by the Carpathians and the Transylvanian Alps is flanked in the north and north-east by the open uplands of the Ukraine, and in the east and south by the flats of the Danubian Basin. It is thus an obstacle which can be turned.

On its southern slopes, some 200 miles from the present Russian Front on the Pruth, lies one of the richest prizes of war, the oilfields of Rumania. The enemy will, of course, defend them as long as he can, but he may well have resigned himself already to the eventual loss of this invaluable source of supply.

GERMAN RETREAT

Remarkable as the extent of the Russian progress has been, it is its speed which must now be perturbing the German High Command. The enemy's retreat has been voluntary, in the sense that he always intended to yield ground on the Russian Front, while making preparations to oppose a landing by British and American armies in the west.

The failure of the Germans to hold the Russian offensive in the south draws attention once more to the increasingly serious view taken by Hitler and his military entourage of an attack in the west which is now in preparation. While the Russians continue their advance at a pace beyond all expectation, and Germany's own armies suffer defeat after defeat, 45 to 50 precious divisions are still kept in the West, in addition to 25 in Italy.

Though the enemy admits that the demands upon his forces in Russia have "gone far beyond expectations" he will still take no risks in the West.

The contribution of her Allies to Russian victories has already been great by sea, on land and in the air, but the final contribution demanded and freely promised will be the most arduous of all.

SITZKRIEG.

(From the Daily Telegraph).

Finland is reported to have resumed her conversations with Russia about peace. Well she may. If Finland continues in her present policy of alliance with Germany nothing can save her if the Russians take the offensive. Since March 1, when Moscow first published its terms, the Red Army have smashed half a dozen lines in the south, and carried hostilities to the doorsteps of Germany's other vassals.

Finland's chief military weakness is that her army has not fought in any major action since the end of the autumn of 1941, although some Finns have served with the Germans on other sectors of the Russian Front, and as police forces in occupied territory. The bulk of the Finnish army, however, has been stationed all this time north of Leningrad and in Karelia, where hostilities took the form of a snipers' war with patrol clashes.

This passivity has not prevented serious losses of Finnish man-power as a result of Russian artillery and mortar fire, so that the Finnish army has by no means recovered from its exhausting combats with the Russian forces in the first summer and autumn of the war. The Finns are the only enemy soldiers on the eastern front who have not yet felt the full impact of the fighting qualities which the Red Army has developed since Stalingrad. The Finnish army has remained an efficient force by the standards of 1941, but of doubtful capacity by those of 1944.

Finland may be hoping that the "sitzkrieg" on her front will continue for some months to come. Russian conception of a campaign against Finland is a series of smashing blows, paralysing the Finnish army and capturing the main urban centres of the country. This would require long and tedious preliminary organisation but the Russians may have already been making their preparations during the last year or more, just as they did before launching decisive operations at Leningrad.

COMRADES IN THE AIR.

HOW BRITISH AND AMERICAN AIRMEN HELP EACH OTHER.

Mr. Churchill has spoken of "the combination in a true brotherhood" of the R. A. F. and the U. S. A. A. F. London commentators provide the following background.

Years of R. A. F. strategic bombing have done much to reduce the *Luftwaffe's* resources: for example, the Heinkel works at Rostock, the Henschel works at Kassel producing Fw-190s, the Philips works at Eindhoven, the electrical equipment industry of Berlin, the Bosch magneto works at Stuttgart, and many others. Without this long-term undermining of the enemy's air power, direct daylight assault to-day would be costlier and more difficult.

By day, the U. S. A. A. F. is able to attack precision (often isolated) targets difficult to locate in the dark: for example, the Fockewulfe works at Marienberg and the Messerschmitt works at Regensburg. By night, the Bomber Command is able to release a weight of attack not readily achieved by daylight, owing to the tactical limitations of the bomb-load in day bombers. In air combat, by destruction of aircraft on the ground and by inflicting damage on aircraft assembly works, the U. S. A. A. F. reduces the number of fighters of which the enemy can make use. By disrupting the main industrial areas the Bomber Command makes repair and replacement more difficult, and also reduces the flow of essential components. The repercussions of a successful attack on a component factory, such as the Daimler-Benz aerodrome works at Stuttgart, are far-reaching and paralysing in their effects on aircraft output. The crippling of Krupps at Essen, for example, caused a stoppage of crankshaft output, and a consequent serious hold-up in the production of aero-engines. Because the *Luftwaffe* is now forced to use day fighters by night and night fighters by day, both the Bomber Command and the U. S. A. A. F. contribute to the exhaustion of German air defence, and each helps to reduce the resistance offered to the other.

London commentators draw attention to the latest R. A. F. technique of precision-bombing by night when the weather is good. This precision bombing can be done over occupied territory—where precision is particularly necessary—because the bomber crews are not hampered in the "run-up". The fact that there is little night fighter opposition over France is one of the fruits of the Anglo-American assault on Germany itself, which ties down full 80 per cent of the total German fighter force to the defence of the Reich.

GENERAL MONTGOMERY ON ALLIED BOMBING OF GERMANY.

*(From the **Daily Mail**.)*

General Montgomery, speaking on March 22 from his headquarters train "somewhere in England", told United States correspondents last night that "the second front has already begun" with the tactical and strategic bombing of north-western Europe and Germany.

He stressed the effectiveness of the Allied bombing of German communications and factories and said, "It is a set-up. We can't lose".

Obviously enthusiastic, with his blue eyes sparkling, General Montgomery described the bombing of Germany as "terrific......terrific".

"When the Germans have been sufficiently stunned we will move in."

When asked how much bombing itself will affect the troops in Western Europe, General Montgomery replied, "The bombing affects the ability of nations to go to war." He said: "The spirit of British divisions who have not yet been into action is "grand", and added that, all troops, British and American, who have not yet been tried under fire must get what I call battle-cunning that can only be gained in battle."

General Montgomery emphasised his conviction that both British and American soldiers are better fighters than the Germans.

"The Germans are a military race," he said, "we and the Americans are not. We are a martial race. There is a big difference. The Germans do what they are told blindly, without knowing why they are doing it. I always see that my men know exactly what we are trying to do, and how it is to be done."

AIR WAR IN THE AEGEAN

*(From the **Crusader**.)*

Twelve months have now passed since bombing operations commenced in Aegean and Ionian seas. Each day they continue. Recently in six weeks there were nearly 4,000 sorties. Here a correspondent tells something of the value of this relentless air-war to the war as a whole.

"Offensive air operations in the Aegean continue.

Behind these terse and familiar lines from the Middle East is the story of carefully planned Allied strategy, which will one day help in the storming of Hitler's leaky 'Fortress' Europe".

German strategy in the Eastern Mediterranean is modelled on strong forward protection of their Grecian and Balkan flanks, by using the strategically placed islands of Crete, Scarpento and Rhodes. Behind this outer ring is a number of smaller island outposts in the Aegean and Ionian seas.

Strong enemy garrisons are being maintained on Crete, Scarpento and Rhodes. In September 1943; there were some 35,000 German troops in Crete, 7,000 in Rhodes, 5,000 scattered among the islands.

The Allied air war in the Balkans, and the Aegean and Ionian seas is directed against enemy lines of communication, which supply his ring of island defences and other strategic points.

The enemy's main supply routes radiate from the Piracus and other Greek ports, down to Crete, Scarpento, Rhodes and Leros bastions of his outer defense ring. Subsidiary lines feed the islands lying between his outer ring and the mainland.

BOMBERS' HEAVY TOLL

Allied bombers based on Italy take heavy toll of these supplies as they pass *via* the Balkan railway to the South.

To get his supplies to his outer islands, the enemy must rely exclusively on the sea route. At one time he was using much shipping to do this.

But so great has been the punishment dealt by Allied Air Forces, in co-operation with the navies, since August 1943, that he has now been forced to cut down the size of his convoys.

The enemy has made desperate efforts to counter the offensive, but the Allies have maintained their air superiority of more than three to one. For instance, in the period between the first week in September and mid-November 1943, enemy aircraft losses claimed by Allied aircraft and ack ack gunners totalled 303 either destroyed, probably destroyed or damaged. R.A.F. losses were only 123 destroyed or damaged.

But the value of the Aegean air war goes beyond mere figures. Allied operations have caused the enemy to reinforce his outlying garrison, particularly in the outer ring, have directly aided the gallant Yugoslav and Greek patriots, and have held down troops which would have been most useful to the Nazi forces hard pressed on the Italian and Russian fronts.

THE EIGHTH ARMY.

Reviewing an official book on "the Eighth Army", the Military Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* writes: In 16 months of its independent career, the Eighth Army had four different commanders, all first-class soldiers and fine characters. That is a measure of the job of finding the right man for the right place. But we must be very careful in assessing the merits of these different commanders, and remember that only the last—General Montgomery—really had the tools to do the job. Coupled with his outstanding success in impressing his personality on all ranks down to the humblest private, and his professional skill in using these tools in unexpected, if not wholly novel, tactics, his possession at least of equal armour of shattering artillery turned the formerly fluctuating battle into a one-way battle.

Moreover, it must not be forgotten that the Eighth Army was really run by a team, Alexander, Montgomery and Lindsell, who, in charge of supplies, "made possible a follow-through for every blow which in a war is the secret of full success".

A MATTER FOR PRIDE.

General Auchinleck's virtue was that he gambled upon imponderables and won. The result was that the "Eighth Army did feel itself after battle to be an army, and it was this *esprit de corps* that saved it in the days to come. As an Officer wrote at the time 'to be in the Eighth Army is a matter for pride, deep beyond casual understanding'".

In the next battle, against the Auchinleck-Ritchie team, Rommel did exactly the same thing as we had done. After weeks of fighting he was in an extremely awkward position with only a gap through our minefields, leading to a bulge created behind our lines. He won out and nearly reached Alexandria, because he refused to admit defeat.

The book says that our disproportionate losses in armour (which really decided the issue) were the "inevitable consequences of trying to fight tank-to-tank battles on ground where heavier and more powerfully equipped German tanks and anti-tank guns could make their superiority in hitting power tell". Another curious fact is that when "the time had come for a furious counter-attack" to make good the promise of a British victory, the counter-attack was delivered by singularly weak forces. On the night of June 4-5, two battalions of the 50th division, supported by the 32nd armoured brigade, attacked from the north, and two brigades of the Fifth Indian Division, supported by the 22nd armoured brigade, four regiment brigades and four regiments of artillery, from the east. What had happened to the three full divisions which (as the book shows just previously) might have been used for a counter-attack in some form? After this failure, our tactical plan began to disintegrate, though until the fall of Tobruk ("few reverses have caused greater shock") our strategic plan did not.

Again, General Auchinleck gains tremendous credit, this time not for insisting on victory but for averting a catastrophe. He himself took over from General Ritchie the tactical handling of the battle, and the book shows that to him is due both the selection and the holding of the El. Alamein position.

INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY.

After the famous victories of the 4th and 5th Indian Divisions in the Abyssinian and North African campaigns, the exploits of the 8th Indian Division in the present fighting in Italy are further proof that Indian soldiers are a match for the best Axis troops.

Like the 4th and 5th Indian Divisions, the 8th represents the Indian and British Armies at its best—regular battalions (though the majority of their officers and men are war-time recruits) well-versed in the science of modern warfare, trained for years in the type of fighting they are now engaged in, and led by officers who know their men and have their confidence. In the words of a Mahratta subedar recently quoted by an Indian Army observer in Italy, they have that most important asset to a soldier—*tagra dil*, stout heartedness.

VITAL PART.

From the September morning last year when Allied troops landed in Italy, through the bitter battles of the Trigno, Moro and Sangro crossings to the slow, dogged village-to-village fighting which has since developed, men of the 8th Indian Division have played a vital part in rolling the Germans steadily northward. Few major battles have been fought

during those seven months in which Indians and their British comrades of the division have not had a hand. Their skill as mountain fighters has pushed them to the forefront in many a bitter engagement in the snow-covered hills of central Italy.

The first Indian troops to set foot on the Italian mainland were Jodhpur infantrymen, who landed on the Salerno beaches with the British-American Fifth Army. A battalion of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment also took part in the fierce struggle to establish a bridgehead and finally to drive the Germans back into the hills. After a few days skirmishing and patrol work, while our troops grew accustomed to the country and tested the enemy's strength, the 8th Division was thrown into its first major operation—the cracking of the German line along the Trigno River. In the face of vicious counter-assaults, battalions of Punjabis and Frontier Force Rifles forced their way through German defences and clawed out a bridgehead on the north bank of the river. The enemy began a slow fighting withdrawal to his main winter line along the Sangro River.

The smashing of the Sangro line represented an even bigger triumph for the division. On November 28, the battle began, and the first crossings were made against great odds of inclement weather, a flooded river and strongly entrenched defences. Three days later, on December 1, it was announced that the 8th Indian Division had broken through, and the German winter line was smashed.

AFTER MORO.

Since the Moro River the division has been edging forward, occupying village after village. Sikhs, Gurkhas, Punjabis, Pathans, Mahrattas and Rajputs have been in the vanguard of the Eighth Army, engaged in hand-to-hand combats with crack units of the German Army. In every encounter they have shown their ability to oust the enemy from strongly prepared positions.

British battalions within the division have vied with their Indian brothers-in-arms in showing dash and determination to advance at all costs. Throughout these hard-fought engagements, British field gunners and Mahratta machine-gunners have backed up the infantry splendidly. One of the most formidable enemies encountered by the Indians was the weather. Freezing temperatures, sleet and snow storms, while bad enough for British and Dominion troops, are doubly trying for men from India. Nevertheless, Indian troops have withstood these hardships magnificently.

UNEASY COALITION.

The political morality of Hitler's Balkan satellites is so low that their loyalty has either to be bought by bribery or induced by threats. In the early days of the war, Hitler adopted the first method. Hungary was given Sub-Carpathic Ruthenia, which belonged to Czechoslovakia, Northern Transylvania which belonged to Rumania, and Backa and Baranya, which belonged to Yugoslavia. Rumania was given Bessarabia and Transnistria at Russia's expense. Bulgaria got portions of Thrace belonging to Greece, and of Macedonia at Yugoslavia's expense.

These early bribes received from the Germans are about to slip away. Further, punishment seems imminent at the hands of the advancing Red Army. In the circumstances, it is not surprising that Hitler has resorted to occupation as the best guarante, against a wavering loyalty.

TILL DEATH DOTH US PART......

Wishing to imply that the developments in satellite countries were purely voluntary, Hitler said recently: "As always in the past, there is only one guarantee for the existence of a nation—its own strength." Unfortunately for Hitler, the best support for his dictum

is furnished by the Soviet come-back, while evidence suggests that it fails to apply to his own satellites. According to the Vichy radio, the Rumanian Journal *Viazza* is telling the nation that at the right time the *German* forces will deal a severe blow to the advancing Russian units. The *Voelkischer Beobachter*, again justified the occupation of Hungary by saying that "the importance of the formidable struggle for the destiny of Europe had escaped some Hungarians."

The recent occupations will enable Germany to strengthen the defence line formed by the Carpathians and the Transylvanian Alps. But it is unlikely that anything the Germans can do can halt the Russian tidal wave. Further, in the deep rear of the Carpathian line, Marshal Tito is active, and his frequent thrusts into Austria will now gain added strength from the fact that the recent occupations will have relieved the German pressure in Yugoslavia to some extent.

SLOOPS SLAY SIX SUBMARINES.

(*A. J. McWhinnie*).

I was at Liverpool recently when the famous Second Escort Group of British anti-submarine sloops came back from their spectacular single patrol in which they sank no fewer than six U-boats. No flotilla of any nation in any war has ever, in a single anti-submarine patrol, achieved such a record "bag".

Back in these ships came 51 disillusioned young German submariners. They seemed more than thankful that they were still alive after the terrific battering inflicted on them by the British Navy.

They carried themselves quietly but well. There was none of the blustering arrogance and non-stop Nazi saluting of the earlier days of the war. There was none of the defiance with which others of thousands of earlier German U-boat prisoners of war stepped ashore calling "Heil Hitler".

SALUTED QUARTER DECK.

The captain of those 51 German submarine men saluted the British quarter deck as he approached the gangway followed by his navigator, petty officers and ratings.

But that young German captain had made a decision which many other U-boat commanders would have been well advised to make. After devastating depth-charging when submerged, he had brought his U-boat to the surface. Of the six U-boats sunk on that single patrol, his alone was destroyed on the surface. Others were all destroyed when they were submerged. By surfacing and flinging themselves into the sea to be at the mercy of their enemies, these men are all alive to-day. Two hundred and fifty men in the five U-boats which chose to stay submerged, all perished.

Unless German scientists can devise some new and unexpected secret U-boat weapon quickly, there is no reason why there should not be further proof in the near future that U-boat men who come to the surface have a five-to-one chance of being rescued, compared with U-boats which choose to stay submerged. But whether his U-boat men are killed or captured, Hitler has still lost their services. He has wasted months and money on their training. Killed or captured, they cannot return to fight another day. There are no German ships—warships or freighters—out on the oceans to pick up U-boat men from their sunken submarines.

"WOODPECKER'S" CREW SAVED.

In these actions against U-boats, the sloop *Woodpecker* was torpedoed and mortally damaged. But there were other British ships in the vicinity. Every officer and man was saved we still have their skill and experience.

It is not often that Britain arranges festive welcomes for warships, though the Germans, in an effort to maintain the morale of U-boat crews, have made it a practice for a long time of greeting returning U-boats with brass bands and cascades of flowers.

Only twice since 1939 has there been a full-dress official welcome in Britain for returning warships. The first was a reception for the cruisers *Ajax* and *Exeter*, after their successful action against the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* in the River Plate battle. Then, there was this formal welcome for the Second Escort Group of sloops when they steamed up the Mersey under the command of Britain's ace U-boat killer, Captain F.J. Walker, triple D. S. O., with their 51 prisoners and other evidence of six U-boats destroyed.

It would perhaps be an exaggeration to say that U-boat crews are developing a defeatist mentality. But there is no doubt that their more infrequent successes, and the increasingly effective counter-strokes they meet, are slowly driving home the lesson of Britain's sea supremacy.

ROLE OF ALLIED AIRBORNE TROOPS IN NORTHERN BURMA.

(*From the Sunday Times*).

Since Allied troops were delivered by air at points of vantage near Algiers and Oran in 1942, there has been just expectation that airborne troops would continue to play a large part in future offensive operations.

Early stages of the campaign in Sicily, were subsequently shared by glider troops and paratroops. Now, the Japanese in Northern Burma are being harassed by British and Indian troops similarly landed in their rear. This type of operation can be seen to need something more than plain air superiority. It must be able to count on enough freedom from interference to allow big transport aircraft, as well as gliders, to land the heavier equipment required to resist more formidable types of opposition, such as might be offered by tanks and artillery. It can be protected from air attack by fighters. It must equally be protected against attack by enemy ground forces.

A MORE AMBITIOUS PLAN.

Reports from Burma hint at a more ambitious plan of using air strength to accomplish infiltration. If it were to be employed in European campaigns, it would have to count on immobilising the forces which oppose it. That could most probably be done by isolating from air the district in which the flying column's base was located. It would mean almost incessant air attacks by day and by night around the edge of the district.

Recent evidence of almost continuous air activity from British bases during full 24 hours of the day, is a useful index of the volume of bombing and "ground strafing" which might be devoted to such a cause in the circumscribed area. Daylight work could also be given weight as well as variety. Still better now is the contribution which the "Mosquito" can make. Its speed and its 4,000 lb bomb make it the most formidable bomber that the Allies have for regular daylight operations. There is no other bomber which can combine a speed of more than 400 miles per hour with a compartment capable of taking a 4,000 pounder.

LACK OF AIR PROTECTION AND SUPPLY.

JAP DIFFICULTIES IN BURMA.

(*From the Scotsman*).

Japanese raiding columns, which were stated a few days ago to have crossed the Chindwin river, have now passed the Indian frontier into Manipur State in South-Eastern Assam. Their movement is officially described as a counter-offensive, presumably intended to bring about a diversion of Allied strength from the campaign in Upper Burma. Doubtless, it has also a political motive, as indeed the Jap Premier has avowed.

While the Jap move may not constitute a serious threat to India, it is obviously desirable that it should be dealt with expeditiously and effectively. General Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India, has stated that no real threat can materialise, unless and until the Japanese manage to penetrate to a point from which they could attack our rail and river communications, and our airfields in Assam, where, during the last two years, "we have been constructing roads through wild and mountainous regions to enable us to maintain enough troops to deal with just such an attack." There is, therefore, good reason for confidence in the outcome, though General Auchinleck added that it might take time before the situation could be finally cleared to the satisfaction of our commanders.

ENEMY'S DIFFICULTIES.

The enemy has substantial difficulties to cope with in the nature of the country, and his lack of air protection and supply, but Jap ability to infiltrate through jungle, as we have learned to our cost in the past, should not be underrated. If the enemy were to succeed in pushing his way to Manipur Road, he would be in a position to threaten the main lines of communication of our forces operating in Upper Burma.

It is, therefore, all the more important that the invaders should be thrown back or exterminated before this danger can arise.

No doubt the enemy felt that after he had failed to drive us back on the Arakan Front, he must seek his goal by another line of approach, and the development of events in Upper Burma may have forced him to undertake a counter-thrust there.

No more has been heard of the British airborne force which landed to the south-east of Myitkyina, beyond the Irrawaddy, and was engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the enemy. As nothing is known about the size of the forces engaged, it is impossible to judge the scale of these operations. But as a Delhi communiqué previously referred to the Jap crossing of the Chindwin as appearing to be in the nature of a major offensive, it may be inferred that the enemy is throwing his main strength in the west, and so columns which have penetrated into Assam may be only the spearhead of the force.

JAP ATROCITIES IN DUTCH EAST INDIES.

NAZI PATTERN OF ADMINISTRATION.

(*By Joseph Kalner*).

On March 8, 1944, the second anniversary of the occupation of Java, the Japanese military authorities published a report on their administration. Noteworthy features in it are a certain candour, paucity of information and a heap of palpable lies.

The report acknowledges that the main tasks of the administration were maintenance of public security and increase in war production. Kazuo Acki, Japanese Minister for Greater Asia, laid down a plan for these purposes immediately after the cccupatien of the islands. This plan was carried out without the slightest consideration for the needs of the inhabitants of the Netherlands Indies.

Representatives of the Dutch Indies Government who are now in Australia recently gave an account of the situation which is of some interest.

JAP PROPAGANDA FAILS.

What the Japanese are chiefly aiming at is to make the Indonesians feel and believe that they have been " liberated ", and that they are now masters of their own fate. This propaganda of Tokyo politicians has failed utterly because the brutality of the Japanese soldiery—who in actual fact control the Netherland Indies—has wrecked Tokyo's plans in this respect. What the Gestapo does for Nazis in Europe is done by Kempeitai in the Netherlands Indies. This is the Japanese military police force, which has become the chief instrument in the administration of the Far Eastern islands.

In order to give the local people the impression of independence, a central administrative body was set up in October, 1943. Its members, however, are not elected by the 60,000,000 Javanese but by the Japanese military administration. Of course, the Japanese have only nominated persons on whose co-operation they think they can rely. This Council of local people does not possess even advisory powers. Up to the present it has only met twice—in October, 1943, and in March, 1944—then merely to receive meekly the Japanese military commander's orders.

All that Japanese propaganda had to say regarding its activities was that it had paid a tribute to the Japanese army for its heroic deeds, and that all items on the agenda had been dealt with. These items apparently concerned the need for an increase in the production of foodstuffs, air raid precautions and measures against espionage in shops and factories.

ON NAZI LINES.

Food production, like every other kind of production, is regulated on Nazi lines. Organisations of the authoritarian type have been set up to reduce all religious communities to a uniform pattern. It is worth nothing, for instance, that Muslims have been forbidden to observe their month's fast, because this would impair their capacity for work and consequently interfere with war production.

Tea and coffee planting has been very largely stopped. This means immense loss for many years to come, because tea and coffee bushes take years of growth before they yield a crop. Thus the Netherlands Indies have been deprived of two of their most important export products. Jute and rice are being cultivated on the devastated tea and coffee plantations.

In peace time rice was the chief article of export of the Dutch East Indies. Now, it costs—for the local inhabitants—fiye times as much as it did before the war, whereas the Japanese buy it at its pre-war price for their army and for export, which is tantamount to confiscation. The Japanese export so much that in Java, for instance, which formerly exported from 150,000 to 240,000 metric tons yearly, the daily ration of all foodstuffs has been reduced to eight ounces, of which only a third consists of rice. Another third consists of Soya beans and the rest of Cassava root, a kind of potato. Even rubber, of which the Japanese have such large quantities in south-eastern Asia, cannot be used or exported for lack of shipping.

The little that remains of inland and export trade is being more and more concentrated in Jap hands. Traders require a licence from the military authorities, who thus control everything. Banks have been put entirely under Japanese management. The economy campaign that was launched among the local inhabitants only benefits the Southern Regions Development Bank which, again, does nothing for the economic development of those territories. In 1943, for instance, this bank "lent" to the Japanese Government 7,000 million yen.

FORCED LABOUR.

Man-power in the southern territories has been mobilised entirely for agriculture and war industries. Roads are being built by forced local labour. Men are called up by local Japanese military commanders, and the methods applied may best be judged from the text of one of these mobilisation orders. It says: "Those who do not come immediately will be fetched by Japanese soldiers and will be punished. This punishment will be either light, namely, to be half beaten to death, or heavy, namely, to be beheaded." To these peculiar recruiting methods for forced labour must be added assaults by Japanese soldiers on Indonesian women and children, and robberies and brutalities of all kinds. The reaction of the local population is fierce hatred of Jap oppressors. Even those Indonesian nationalists who formerly worked against the Dutch now know where their salvation lies.

For instance, an extremist nationalist leader of the Indonesians recently issued an appeal in which he stated—superfluously, one might think—that all Indonesians who loved their country must recognise with the deepest disappointment that all their hopes and ideals were trampled in the dust when Japan occupied the islands. It is hardly possible to give a clearer and more categorical answer to the Japanese lies of "liberation".

INDIAN SOLDIER'S INCREASED PAY.

Under the decision announced by the Commander-in-Chief in the Council of State, Indian combatant soldiers serving in the field will now draw Rs. 37—8—0 per month. A sepoy's basic pay was Rs. 16. This was increased in September, 1942, to Rs. 18. His pre-war proficiency pay was Rs. 2—8—0, which was increased in September, 1942, to Rs. 3—8—0 and will now be Rs. 8—8—0 for men who have completed one year's service. Pre-war deferred pay was Re. 1, which was increased to Rs. 3 in April, 1942, and remains unchanged. The pre-war basic 'batta', which is payable in the field was Rs. 3. This was increased to Rs. 5 in September, 1942, and now becomes Rs. 8, for a combatant. The pay of a combatant soldier in the field who has completed one year's service is thus:

	Rs.	A.	P.
Basic Pay	18	0	0
Proficiency Pay	8	8	0
Deferred Pay	3	0	0
Batta	8	0	0
Total ...	37	8	0

In addition, when serving overseas, he receives an expatriation allowance of Rs. 7 a month, which makes a total of Rs. 44—8—0 per month. Besides this pay, the Indian soldier is housed, clothed and fed and, in fact, gets everything at Government expense.

DO YOU KNOW THAT.

General MacArthur is an eighth cousin of Mr. Churchill.

The British aircraft-carrier *Victorious* was in action with the U. S. Navy in the Pacific for six months, during which she sailed 30,000 miles.

Airfields now cover 250,000 acres in Britain, and estimated expenditure on aerodromes and other establishments for the Allied air forces in Britain alone is £ 165,000,000.

The British Post Office, by using war economy labels, has saved over 40,000,000 envelopes.

Typical of the work of the Y. W. C. A. (Young Women's Christian Association) is the club in Chelmsford, Essex, where for 3d. a week women war-workers and land-girls can have a bath, wash their hair, do their laundry and ironing, play games, write letters and invite friends in for a light meal.

Two thousand five hundred British restaurants now serve 600,000 meals a day.

Members of the public are requested to make a free present of any suitable old Tamil books they can spare for the perusal, in their leisure time, of our soldiers outside India.

Books so given will be handed over to the Superintendent of the State Press, who will arrange to despatch them.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXCIII. (*Batch 3*).

15- 4-44	Municipal Office	...	6.00 p.m.
16- 4-44	Surakkadu	...	7.00 "
"	Kottaikkadu	...	7.30 "
17- 4-44	Tennatirayanpatti	...	7.00 "
"	Visalur	...	7.30 "
18- 4-44	Malaiyur	...	7.00 "
"	Karambakkudi	...	7.30 "
19- 4-44	Ramachandrapuram	...	7.00 p.m.
"	Rayavaram	...	7.30 "
20- 4-44	Valaramanikkam.	...	7.00 "
"	Embal	...	7.30 "
21- 4-44	Viralimalai	...	7.00 "
"	Poruvai	...	7.30 "

LECTURE CXCIV. (*Batch 4*).

22- 4-44	Municipal Office	...	6.00 p.m.
23- 4-44	Nirpalani	...	7.00 "
"	Avur	...	7.30 "
24- 4-44	Puttambur	...	7.00 "
"	Vaittikkovil	...	7.30 "
25- 4-44	Vadavalam	...	7.00 "
"	Sammattividuthi	...	7.30 "
26- 4-44	Ariyur	...	7.00 p.m.
"	Annavasal	...	7.30 "
27- 4-44	Andakkulam	...	7.00 "
"	Killanur.	...	7.30 "
28- 4-44	Kodumbalur	...	7.00 "
"	Viralur	...	7.30 "

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

15— 4—44	Ponnamaravathi.
16— 4—44	Tittanviduthi.
18— 4—44	Ramachandrapuram.
19— 4—44	Rayavaram.
20— 4—44	Alangudi.
21— 4—44	Pudukkottai.
22— 4—44	Tirumayyam.
23— 4—44	Marudankonviduthi.
25— 4—44	Vadakadu.
26— 4—44	Karambakkudi
27— 4—44	Kulipirai.
28— 4—44	Pudukkottai.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 600—15-4-44.